

Remarks

Reconsideration of the subject application and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 28-48, 50, 56-64 and 76-99 are pending and have been allowed. Claims 100-102 have been canceled.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Lee for the cordial and productive interview of March 2, 2005. The Examiner's helpful comments and suggestions were instrumental in preparing this response.

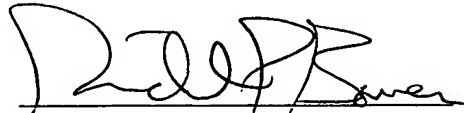
Claims 100-102 were rejected as being unpatentable over Maas, for the reasons discussed on pages two and three of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse all art rejections. However, while specifically traversing the art rejection, and preserving Applicants' right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicants have cancelled Claims 100-102 solely to secure immediate allowance of the subject Application.

Conclusion

In view of the above, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard P. Bauer', written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
Richard P. Bauer
Registration No. 31,588

Patent Administrator
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
525 West Monroe Street
Chicago, Illinois 60661-3693
Facsimile: (312) 902-1061